



Board Bulletin

May 2, 2014

Economic Development Symposium Recap

Earlier this week, Vice-Chairman Dunevant and I had the opportunity to attend an economic development symposium organized by the NC Association of County Commissioners.

The speakers for the event included, but were not limited to, site consultants, a workforce development professional with the State's community college system, the leader of a regional partnership, a representative from the State's small business and technology development center, a representative from the NC Dept. of Agriculture, and a representative from Cooperative Extension.

Below please find a summary of several key points:

Site Selection—(1) Local government must create conditions for the right businesses to prosper, (2) must have a strong business retention and expansion program, (3) infrastructure must be in place or at least have engineered plans and cost estimates ready, (4) must have available product (sites and buildings), (5) need to mitigate development concerns, (6) must have a strong education pipeline to fill workforce needs

Incentives—Numerous speakers stressed the importance of making incentives available for new investment and job creation. There was also discussion about the opportunity to broaden incentives beyond property tax grants to include express permitting, training, waiving utility connection fees, etc.

Regionalism—(1) Counties should align based on functional market areas that follow the natural pattern of where folks work, shop and recreate. (2) Share marketing resources regionally; however, each county must have the right assets for business attraction such as workforce, infrastructure and available product. (3) Political boundaries are irrelevant to business location decisions.

Importance of Agricultural Exporting and Value

Added Products—(1) There are significant opportunities to increase agricultural exports. (2) Do not ignore locally grown food initiatives. (3) Consider investments such as incubation space and processing facilities to foster entrepreneurial growth for value added products.

Senior Services - Repairs & Replacement

As a result of some additional Home and Community Care Block Grant funding this current fiscal year, Senior Services is planning to make some one-time capital expenditures and building improvements.

The heating tables and equipment at each nutrition site are over 20 years old and beginning to demonstrate maintenance issues. This equipment will be replaced with new, more energy efficient models.

Additionally, the wood floor in the large meeting room at the Senior Center will be replaced. The County has sought grants to replace the old wood floor for several years. The floor is heavily utilized for numerous senior programs and other community events. The Senior Center staff is currently working to gather informal bids from local contractors for the replacement of the wood floor.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Recessed Board Meeting w/Library Trustees	Monday, May 5 5:30 PM Albemarle Library
BOCC Regular Meeting	Monday, May 5 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room
Joint Meeting w/SCC Trustees	Wednesday, May 7 6:00 PM Crutchfield Campus